

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

I believe that Sinclair's broadcasting decision constitutes a major donation to President Bush's re-election campaign. The equivalent airtime opportunity for Senator Kerry's campaign is not forthcoming therefore the public airwaves have been utilized in an unfair and illegal manner.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

I urge the FCC to take action with Sinclair Broadcasting. Appropriate action in my opinion would be to either remove "Stolen Honor" from the air or allow equal prime time access for a program such as "Going Upriver" which shows an alternative point of view. Thank you.